# SABINE CHANNEL MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK (BUNNY/JERVIS ISLAND)

## PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

**March 2003**

Approved by:

Date: March 25/03

Dick Heath
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division

Date: March 31/03

Nancy Wilkin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Stewardship Division

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# SABINE CHANNEL MARINE PROVINCIAL PARK
## Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

### Primary Role

The **primary** role of Sabine Channel Marine Park is to protect the natural environment of small island ecosystems in the Strait of Georgia. The park encompasses two complete islands (Jervis and Bunny) located in Sabine Channel between Texada and Lasqueti islands. These islands are part of a chain of over thirty islands and rocky islets, with Jedediah being the largest. They are comprised of forest ecosystems intermingled with rocky cliffs and outcrops encircled by a rich marine environment.

Sabine Channel Marine Park contributes toward the representation of the Coastal Douglas-fir (CDFmm) biogeoclimatic zone in the Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecosection. This zone is highly impacted and fragmented by human development and is under represented in the protected areas system with less than 2.5% of its area protected. Because very little of this ecosystem remains in its natural state and because of its limited range, many of its plants are rare and endangered and any area that contributes to its protection may be considered significant. Although much of Jervis Island has been logged, it will regenerate and provide an example of CDFmm.

### Secondary Role

The **secondary** role is to offer a remote ocean-based experience within reach of major population centres and along the Inside Passage. Jervis and Bunny islands have recreation opportunities that are complemented by nearby Jedediah Island Marine Park. Relatively easy access combined with a sense of remoteness and a natural setting provides a popular destination for hiking, boating, kayaking, fishing, scuba diving and nature appreciation. There is an anchorage but no facilities and access is by private boat only.

### Management Issues

| Known Management Issue | Response |
|---|---|
| Lack of knowledge of natural and cultural values | ➢ Undertake an ecological inventory to get a better understanding of the conservation values and possible rare elements.<br>➢ Work with First Nations to get a better understanding of cultural heritage resources. Consult the Cultural Heritage Resource Inventory Project initiated by the Sliammon First Nation. |
| Impact of feral animals on native ecosystems | ➢ Work with local residents to control the animals. |
| Public safety – risks to public by old mine shafts, manmade sink holes, old log handling site | ➢ Address the most dangerous of the hazards and communicate the other risks with signage. |
| Lack of awareness of the park | ➢ Put up boundary signage and ensure the park is identified on marine charts. |
| Lack of foreshore | ➢ Work with Lands and Water BC and stakeholders to protect foreshore and surrounding islands as part of the park. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Restoration of natural conditions | ➢ Identify opportunities for active restoration.<br>➢ Complete Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping<br>➢ Develop a restoration plan. |

## Zoning

**Natural Environment Zone** – applies to the entire area of the park (95 hectares). The objective is to protect the natural environment while providing complementary outdoor recreation opportunities.

## Conservation

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Representation<br>- ecosection | ☒ | Contributes 2.3% to the representation of the Strait of Georgia *Terrestrial* Ecosection, which is under represented in the protected areas system at 5.4% |
| - biogeoclimatic subzone/variant | ☒ | Contributes 1.4% to the representation of CDFmm, which is under represented in the protected areas system at 2.4%. Any contribution to this fragmented and highly impacted ecosystem may be considered important due to the limited opportunities available for its protection. |
| Special Features | ☐ | None known at this time |
| Rare/Endangered Values | ☐ | None known at this time |
| Scientific/Research Opportunities | ☒ | Restoration of CDF ecosystems |

## Recreation

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Representation | | |
| backcountry | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| destination | ☒ | Kayaking, boating |
| travel corridor | ☐ | Not applicable |
| local recreation | ☒ | Kayaking, boating |
| Special Opportunities | ☐ | None known at this time |
| Education/Interpretation Opportunities | ☐ | None known at this time |

## Cultural Heritage

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Representation | ☒ | Mineral exploration sites |
| Special Feature | ☐ | None known at this time |

## Other Management Considerations

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Other Designations | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| Relationship to other PAs | ☒ | Part of a group of protected areas in the Sabine Channel area of the Strait of Georgia. Complements Jedediah Island Marine Park. |
| Co-operative Management Arrangements | ☐ | Not Applicable |
| Partnerships | ☐ | Not Applicable |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vulnerability | ☒ | Vulnerable to feral sheep |
| Relationship to other Strategies | ☒ | Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy; Marine Protected Areas Strategy |

**Area**: 95 hectares

**Date of establishment**: April 11, 2001

## Zoning Map - Sabine Channel Marine Park

Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 100

m

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